

# South Dakota National Guard

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **SDNG appoints new state command chief warrant officer**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard has announced Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lonny Hofer, of Rapid City, as the new state command chief warrant officer.

A change of responsibility ceremony was held between Hofer and the outgoing command chief, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Darla Crown, at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid, May 3.

Hofer becomes the sixth state command chief warrant officer for the SDARNG since the position was established in 1999. Crown served in the position since April 2011 and will retire with more than 42 years of military service.

“When I think of a warrant officer, Chief Hofer comes immediately to mind,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard. “Warrant officers are the technical subject matter experts within their particular career field. Mr. Hofer is the quite commensurate professional, more so of any other warrant officer I have worked with.”

As the state command chief, Hofer will serve as the senior warrant officer advisor to the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. He will serve under the direction of the adjutant general to address warrant officer development and strength management of the Warrant Officer Cohort.

Hofer will be responsible for keeping the adjutant general informed and make recommendations in matters of warrant officer recruiting, morale, welfare, schooling, promotion and retention. He will also oversee a Warrant Officer Advisory Committee and serve as the spokesperson to advise the adjutant general and the chain of command on warrant officer management.

“Within this position, the Warrant Officer Cohort cannot have a better spokesman for them,” said Griesse. “I guarantee you that he will carry on the mentorship that Chief Crown has established for the Warrant Officer Cohort.”

Hofer began his military service in July 1974 when he enlisted in the SDARNG with the 153rd Engineer Battalion in Huron. He served the next 19 years in numerous enlisted positions with the 153rd and the 109th Engineer Group in Rapid City, where he attained the rank of sergeant first class. He received his appointment as a warrant officer in April 1985 with the 109th.

Throughout his career, Hofer served as a maintenance technician, ground safety officer and senior maintenance officer. Hofer deployed in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield and again in 2004 for Operation Enduring Freedom with the 109th.

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“My goal is to be a servant leader. I would like to share something I heard at my son’s baccalaureate,” said Hofer, as he addressed those in attendance. ‘The first thing you should do in the morning is to look up, and then look out.’ I look up to God for guidance and I look out to mentor and make sure the warrant officers are viable and relevant and meet the top priority of the adjutant general - take excellent care of our Soldiers and their families.”

On the civilian side, Hofer has been employed as a full-time SDARNG technician for 35 years and is currently the state’s safety and occupational health manager.

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**150503-Z-ZZ999-005:** U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, passes a ceremonial saber to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lonny Hofer during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., on May 3, 2015. Hofer will serve under the direction of the adjutant general to address warrant officer development and strength management of the Warrant Officer Cohort. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Jennifer Lena/Released)



**150503-Z-GT719-025:** U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 receives the ceremonial saber from Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., on May 3, 2015. Hofer will serve under the direction of the adjutant general to address warrant officer development and strength management of the Warrant Officer Cohort. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)



**150503-Z-ZZ999-011:** U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lonny Hofer addresses the audience after becoming the South Dakota Army National Guard’s new state command chief warrant officer during a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., May 3, 2015. Hofer will serve under the direction of the adjutant general to address warrant officer development and strength management of the Warrant Officer Cohort. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Jennifer Lena/Released)

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